paid in furrs of different ſorts. In fine, the exchange of goods with the *Kamtſchadales* and *Chineſe* is ſo profitable, that, notwithſtanding all expences occaſioned by the diſtance, dearneſs of tranſport, and other difficulties, we may reckon that a 1000 rubles will produce 4000, provided they remain but one year in *Kamtſchatka*; but if they remain longer, there is a conſiderable loſs. The reaſons of this are, firſt, that upon their arrival, being flattered with the high prices of things, they ſell every thing, even their own cloaths and proviſions, hoping ſoon to leave the country, in which if diſappointed, they are obliged to buy them back again at double price: ſecondly, that the furrs by lying, loſe their colour and value: thirdly, that the place is exceſſively expenſive in regard to lodging, warehouſe-room, victuals, and ſeveral other particulars.

Goods demanded in *Kamtſchatka*, beſides the natural produce of *Ruſſia*, are *European* goods, from *Siberia*, *Bobaria*, and the *Calmuks*. From *Europe* they receive coarſe cloaths of various colours, linen, ſerges, knives, ſilk and cotton handkerchiefs, red wine, a little ſugar, tobacco, and ſeveral toys. From *Siberia*, iron, ſeveral iron and copper veſſels, and inſtruments, ſuch as knives, hatchets, ſaws, and fire-ſteels; alſo wax, hemp, yarn for nets, tanned deer-ſkins, coarſe *Ruſſian* linen and cloth. From *Bobaria*, and the country of the *Calmuks*, they bring ſeveral different ſorts of cotton goods. From *China*, ſeveral ſilk and cotton ſtuffs, tobacco, coral, and needles, which are much preferred to thoſe from *Ruſſia*. From the *Koreki* they receive great quantities of rein-deer-ſkins, both dreſſed and undreſſed, which they may ſell in what quantities they pleaſe at any time. Merchants muſt take care not to have too great a ſtock of any other goods; for the inhabitants of this place, *Ruſſians* as well as natives, never buy any thing before they are in abſolute want of it, even if they could buy it at half price.

The

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

342 of thatch, or dried graſs, placed upon long
354 poles faſtened together at the top, and bear-
511 ing upon the rafters. This is at once the
417 firſt and laſt ſtory; it forms the whole apartment, or rather chamber: an opening in the roof ſerves inſtead of a chimney to let out the ſmoke, when a fire is lighted to dreſs their victuals; this cookery is performed in the middle of the room, where they eat and ſleep pell-mell together without the leaſt diſguſt or ſcruple. In theſe apartments, windows are out of the queſtion; there is merely a door, ſo low and narrow, that it will ſcarcely ſuffice to admit the light. The ſtair-caſe is worthy of the reſt of the building; it conſiſts of a beam, or rather a tree jagged in a ſlovenly manner, one end of which reſts on the ground, and the other is raiſed to the height of the floor. It is placed at the angle of the door, upon a level, with a kind of open gallery that is erected before it. This tree

retains

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

356 another, in my opinion, much more fetid, and which I never could endure; it is the nauſeous exhalation from the dried and ſtinking fiſh, when it is preparing, when they are eating it, and even after it is eaten. The refuſe is deſtined for the dogs; but before the poor animals get it, every corner of the room has been ſwept with it.

511 The perſons who inhabit theſe dwellings exhibit a ſpectacle equally diſguſting. Here is a group of women, ſhining from the fat with which they ſmear themſelves, and wallowing on the ground amidſt a heap of rags; ſome of them ſuckling their children, who are half naked, and bedaubed with filth from head to foot; others devouring with them ſome ſcraps of fiſh perfectly raw, and frequently putrid. There we ſee others in a diſhabille that is not leſs filthy, lying upon bear's ſkins, chattering to one another, and frequently altogether,

and

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

352 bench is only a foot from the ground *,
511 and commonly ſerves as a bed for a num-
514 ber of families. I have counted in one yourt more than twenty perſons, men, women, and children. They eat, drink, and ſleep pell mell together, ſatisfy all the calls of nature without reſtraint or modeſty, and never complain of the noxious air that
354 prevails in theſe places. It is true there is
353 a fire almoſt inceſſantly. The fire-place is commonly either in the middle of the yourt or againſt one of the ſides. In the evening they rake the coals in a heap, and ſhut the entrance of the yourt, where the ſmoke ſhould evaporate; and thus the heat is concentrated, and kept up during the whole night. By means of a diſmal lamp, the form and diſagreeable ſmell of which I have before deſcribed, we diſcover in one

* Some of the yourts which I ſaw were floored with planks; but this is regarded as a luxury, and the generality have no other floor than the ground.

corner

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

353 corner of the apartment * a wretched image of ſome ſaint, ſhining with greaſe and blackened with ſmoke. It is before theſe images that the Kamtſchadales bow themſelves, and offer their prayers. The reſt of the furniture conſiſts of ſeats and ſome veſſels, made either of wood, or the bark of trees. Their cookery utenſils are of copper or iron; but they are all diſguſtingly filthy. The remains of their dried fiſh are ſcattered about the room, and the women or the children are continually broiling pieces of ſalmon ſkin, which is one of their favourite meats.

352 415 356 511

171 291 854 The ſingularity of the children's dreſs particularly attracted my attention; it is ſaid exactly to reſemble that of the Koriacs. It conſiſts of only one garment, that is, of a

* This nook is in a manner diſtinct from the room, and is leſs filthy, becauſe it is leſs frequented. It is a place of honour ſet apart for ſtrangers.

ſingle